

Message Text

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02088 191023Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TW

SUBJECT: KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL HOLD SPECIAL SESSION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REFS: (A) TAIPEI 1893; (B) TAIPEI A-147 OF AUGUST 2, 1974

1. SUMMARY: THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE KUOMINTANG WILL HOLD A SPECIAL ONE-DAY MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 28. DETAILS OF THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED ARE NOT KNOWN YET; HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED AMONG OTHER THINGS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF SELECTING A NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE PARTY TO REPLACE THE LATE PRESIDENT. THE MEETING COULD BE ONLY PRO FORMA AND WE DOUBT THERE WILL BE ANY MAJOR CHANGES, BUT AN OUTWARDLY SMOOTH-RUNNING SESSION WILL BE INTERPRETED BY MOST OBSERVERS AS FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT POWER STILL RESTS FIRMLY IN THE HANDS OF PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO. END SUMMARY.

2.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 02088 191023Z

2. THE CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE KUOMINTANG DECIDED ON FRIDAY, APRIL 18, TO HOLD A SPECIAL ONE-DAY MEETING OF THE KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON MONDAY, APRIL 28. TEXT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT AS CARRIED IN THE

CHINA POST FOLLOWS:

"AFTER THE DEATH OF OUR DIRECTOR GENERAL, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT HIS WILL; TO PRACTICE THE THREE PRINCIPLES OF THE PEOPLE; TO RECOVER OUR MAINLAND; TO REANIMATE OUR PEOPLE'S CULTURE; TO MAINTAIN OURSELVES IN THE DEMOCRATIC BLOC; THE MEETING HAS DECIDED TO CONVENE A SPECIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 28 TO DISCUSS EACH OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ITEMS."

3. THE CHUNG YANG JIH PAO, OFFICIAL PARTY PAPER, STATED THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION WILL RECEIVE REPORTS ON THE LATE PRESIDENT'S FUNERAL AND THE CURRENT "REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION", STUDY PROPOSALS WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR DISCUSSION AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APRIL 6 CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE DECISION, FORMALLY ACCEPT THE LATE PRESIDENT'S WILL (SEE REF A). THE CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY ALSO REPORTED THE MEETING WILL WORK OUT A "CONCRETE PROGRAM" TO CARRY OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN THE PRESIDENT'S WILL. ALL MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND RELEVANT, RESPONSIBLE PARTY OFFICIALS WILL ATTEND. (ALL OF THESE GROUPS USUALLY ATTEND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, BUT ONLY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY VOTE.)

4. UNTIL FURTHER DETAILS ARE KNOWN (THEY MAY NOT YET HAVE BEEN DECIDED), IT IS PREMATURE TO STATE MORE PRECISELY WHAT ISSUES MAY BE DISCUSSED AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING. WE WOULD ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE PRESIDENT CHIANG WAS TSUNG-TSAI (DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PARTY, THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION--IF ANY--SHOULD BE TAKEN TO REPLACE HIM. THE LATE SUN YAT-SEN IS STILL TSUNG-LI (PARTY PRESIDENT) OF THE PARTY, AND WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TAIPEI 02088 191023Z

CHIANG KAI-SHEK MAY REMAIN AS THE TSUNG-TSAI, HE MUST BE REPLACED AS THE PARTY'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER. UNDER THE PARTY CONSTITUTION, ONLY A NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS CAN ELECT A NEW TSUNG-TSAI OR AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO CREATE A NEW POSITION. THEREFORE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS MEETING MAY DECIDE TO SUMMON A NEW NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS.

5. ALTHOUGH THE FIRST CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AFTER THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT CHIANG COULD BE ONLY A PRO FORMA SESSION, KMT WATCHERS MAY VIEW IT AS A TEST OF PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO'S (CCK) STRENGTH. AS NOTED IN REF B, THE PREMIER HAS GRADUALLY MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POWER WITHIN THE PARTY, STILL THE PRINCIPAL REDOUBT OF THE OLD GUARD. WE DOUBT ANY AGING PARTY

MEMBERS WILL BE REMOVED OR THAT
THEY WILL OPENLY CHALLENGE CCK'S AUTHORITY
AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, AN OUTWARDLY SMOOTH-RUNNING
CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE INTERPRETED BY MOST
OBSERVERS AS FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT POWER STILL
RESTS IN THE HANDS OF THE PREMIER. UNGER

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